

Department of **CONSERVATION**

Vol. 1, No. 2

Sacramento, Calif., October 1970

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Ranger I Class Approved

In response to my request, the State Personnel Board on Sept. 23 adopted a revised specification for the class State Forest Ranger I to reflect the broader use of this class under the department's new organization and staffing plans for ranger units and conservation camps.

The board's approval will authorize the reclassification of "Operations Officer" positions in 20 Ranger III units, now typically in the Associate Ranger class, and "Superintendent" positions, now in the specialized Forestry Superintendent class, to State Forest Ranger I.

Most of these position reclassifications will be effective Oct. 1, 1970. The number of positions allocated to the Ranger I class on that date changes from 25 to 74.

During October and November, field evaluations will be made of the new "Administrative Officer" positions in Ranger III units, the "Business Manager" positions in district offices and other positions remaining in the Associate Ranger class. I expect that this effort will result in additional reclassifications to the Ranger I class.

A new promotional examination for State Forest Ranger I will be scheduled this winter. This examination will give employees at the Assistant and Associate Ranger and other levels that are eligible an opportunity to establish eligibility for promotion to new or vacant Ranger I positions.

With the implementation of the new organization and staff plan in Ranger III units, more time and greater attention can be devoted to resolving position assignment, classification and pay and work-week problems of the Assistant Ranger positions. This objective and the reduction in the duty week for the fire

suppression group from 96 to 84 hours will receive top priority.

Progress has been made in placing employees affected by the elimination of District III and the consolidation of ranger units. We will utilize all available means of retaining employees such as fire crew foremen and assistant rangers until they can be absorbed in appropriate assignments by natural attrition. It is my goal to avoid separations or demotions due to layoff.

These actions to implement the five-district and 23-ranger unit plan for the field organization will bring to conclusion a chain of events that has affected many employees and managers. Further changes in the number of districts and units is not contemplated.

The confusion and uncertainty that has resulted from the reorganization these past few months has been trying on all of us. I am appreciative of the

(Continued on Page 8)

New Post for 'Pete' Petersen

Appointment of Deputy State Forester L. T. (Pete) Petersen as Department of Conservation coordinator for the Governor's Career Opportunities Development program has been announced by Director James G. Stearns.

Conservation is one of the 10 state departments involved in a one-year pilot project to develop new methods of recruiting, selecting and training disadvantaged persons for careers in state service. The project is federally funded.

Petersen, 54, has headed the Division of Forestry's conservation camp program since Aug. 1, 1949. Supervision of the engineering section

The Division of Mines and Geology has a "new" chief—who isn't really new at all.

Appointment of Wesley G. (Wes) Bruer as division chief and state geologist was announced last month by Director James G. Stearns.



Bruer had been acting chief and acting geologist since December 1969. He came to the department in January 1969 as program development officer. Bruer has been a geologist for 21 years.

The 44-year-old official was born in Oregon, where he attended schools. He was graduated from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology in 1949.

Bruer worked as a geologist for a cement company in eastern Oregon, for a large independent oil company in Texas, California, Washington, Oregon and Wyoming and as a consulting geologist in Bakersfield.

(Continued on Page 8)

was added to Petersen's responsibilities in the following year.

The camp program, in the 21 years Petersen has headed it, has expanded from two adult and four youth camps to 33 camps with over 2,500 wards and inmates.

Petersen, a native of Paso Robles, is a graduate of the University of California.

He joined state service in 1937 as a highway laborer and in 1939 became an assistant forest ranger for the Division of Forestry. Forestry service was interrupted for duty with the Navy during World War II.

(Continued on Page 8)

554.016

Bond Drive Successful

The 1970 Payroll Savings Campaign was the most successful in the history of the department.

Wayne E. Rodgers, budget and systems officer and chairman for the drive, reported an "unprecedented enrollment" in the program.

Rodgers, in reporting to Director James G. Stearns, praised the efforts of the director, Deputy Director John M. Mayfield Jr. and division chairmen. "This kind of top management backing was instrumental in gaining the cooperation and leadership of district chairmen and individual investment counselors," said Rodgers.

And, Rodgers adds, "It is my observation that the extra effort put out this year to gain employee participation in such a beneficial program has helped build morale and cohesiveness within the organization."

Statistics prepared by Rodgers show that in the two weeks of the campaign, a total of 373 new savers were enrolled, a 67.2 pct. increase. This achievement increased the percentage of participation from a pre-campaign figure of 19.2 pct. to a record 32.2 pct.

Investment counselors who earned a \$25 United States Savings Bond for their efforts include: Wilma L. Ashby, Division of Mines and Geology; Larry S. Kirton, Division of Forestry, District I; Richard M. Walker, CDF District III; and Robert N. Keepers, CDF District IV.

In addition, treasury citations have been awarded the following department personnel: Marvin L. Bent, Carolyn L. Budler, Richard W. Cronin, Jimmie G. Gaines, Harry R. Harp, Francis L. Hill, Ordean T. Monsen, Donald J. O'Connell, Jon C. Rolland, Fred A. Schoener, Geoffrey H. Snow, Margaret W. Turner and Charles W. Wilcher.

Percentage increases among employees included: Forestry Headquarters, 13.5; CDF District I, 75.7; District II, 53.8; District III, 43.4; District IV, 128.1; District V, 101.7; District VI, 60.0. (CDF total increase: 68.3 pct.)

Also, 33.3 for executive and management services within the department; Division of Mines and Geology, 153.3; Division of Oil and Gas, 52.0; Division of Soil Conservation no change.

RAY BRYANT'S SON PITCHER FOR GIANTS

The baseball-pitching son of Ray Bryant, assistant equipment engineer at the Division of Forestry's Davis facility, is making it in the big league.

And needless to say, young Ron Bryant has a proud father.

The following appeared in the Sacramento Bee:

Left-handed Ron Bryant of Davis, winning pitcher for the (San Francisco) Giants in the second game of a doubleheader sweep over the Pirates at Candlestick Park yesterday (Aug. 30), said he had the "best stuff" since he became a hurler in the National League.

Bryant won by a 2-1 count after the San Francisco club had won the opener 7-3.

"I worked in the bullpen and three batting practices one day last week," Bryant recalled, "and pitching coach Larry Jansen told me I was not going back far enough with my arm on my curve ball. And for this reason my curve wasn't breaking as it should."

"I just made up my mind I was going to get my arm back where it should be in my windup and it really worked great. Also my catcher, John Stephenson called a great game. We've worked together many times but mostly while we were (at) Phoenix."

"That improvement in my curve ball made my fast ball just that much better. I'd have to say my curve was working best it ever has. I also used a changeup effectively at times."

Stephenson also agreed with Bryant about the curve ball. "That's the best he's ever thrown it since I've been catching him," Stephenson said.

Manager Charley Fox also chimed in with a few favorable remarks about Bryant's first complete game in the National League.

"Did you notice how he was popping the ball against those Pirate hitters?" Fox asked. "He was really throwing the ball the way I know he can. He could beat anybody the way he threw the ball against them."

AR Study

District and Ranger Unit-level studies of the workload of Assistant Ranger Districts in the Division of Forestry are underway now.

Criteria for the study, requested by the Legislative Analyst, has been finalized and is the basis for the review by the district and ranger units.

Results of the study are to be handled by the Analyst prior to start of the 1971 session.

25-YEAR LEADER



President Francis

Forest Ranger Walter H. (Curley) Francis is serving as president of the Forestry 25-Year Club.

Francis, in charge of San Mateo Ranger Unit, formerly was vice president of the club.

Other 1970 officers are Jack Burke, vice president; Dick Ford, secretary-treasurer; Art Pirazzini, three-year director; Ross Dunwoody, one-year director filling Burke's post; and two-year hold over director is E. R. (Sam) Garza.

OFFICERS REELECTED BY SOIL COMMISSION

Officers of the seven-man California State Soil Conservation Commission have been reelected to new one-year terms.

Frank Sieferman of Zamora, Yolo County, remains the commission's chairman. Calvin H. Costa of Hinkley, San Bernardino County, was named vice chairman.

The two leaders, both farmers, were named to the commission by Gov. Ronald Reagan; Sieferman in 1968 and Costa last year.

Big Winners

Division of Oil and Gas employees attending the Northern California chapter of the American Petroleum Institute 7th annual barbecue Sept. 18 in Woodland captured five very nice door prizes.

Winners were Jim Weddle, Ray Rothermel, Larry Axtell, Pat Williams and Bill Cady.

The event was planned by Dave Anderson and Pat Williams of the division's Woodland staff.

GOING TO SCHOOL

Engineering and clerical personnel in the Bakersfield office of the Division of Oil and Gas are continuing to further their educations.

More than one-third of the 14 employees are enrolled in classes at Bakersfield College.

CDF Designs a New Fire Truck

A prototype of a new conventional-type fire truck for use by the Division of Forestry has been developed and placed in service in the Calaveras Ranger Unit.

The new truck is the result of over two years of experiment, review and testing by division equipment engineers and field personnel.

A significant change is the use of a new protected seating area in the cab for a six-man fire crew. In the past, the fire crew has been seated at the back of the truck. This new approach protects the crew from the weather and is certainly an added safety factor.

The truck's water capacity is 650 gallons; it carries a 500 gallon-per-minute pump.

Approximately 200 of the new trucks may eventually be placed in the field as part of the 376 fire trucks in the division's fleet. (The balance of the fleet includes four-wheel drive vehicles; this new truck is a conventional two-wheel drive model).

A model fire truck is originally developed from a composite of suggestions from field personnel, engineers and others. Once the engineers have a general idea, work begins. A preliminary design for the new truck prepared and then a chassis and other materials were purchased so work on the new model could begin at the division's Davis equipment facility.

Work on the current project dates back prior to July 1, 1968. Equipment

Cycle Council

Arlen Cartwright of the Division of Forestry is one of 13 members of a San Diego County council formed to deal with problems concerning motorcycling, use of open space by cyclists and related matters.

engineers W. R. Zimdars, Walt Harkness and John Hudnell and retired engineer Don Swain are credited with developing the new truck, along with Assistant Equipment Engineer Ray Bryant and his staff at the Davis facility.

After the "first draft" of the new truck was completed, it was taken into the field. There, CDF personnel who daily use fire trucks went over the new truck with the meticulousness of a beauty contest judge.

Armed with a new list of suggestions, the engineers and their model returned to Davis to make those changes which appeared necessary. Of course, many factors enter here, such as economics and availability of parts.

The "second draft" was then placed on official duty in the Calaveras Ranger Unit so it can be used for a fire season "to make certain everything works and that there are no bugs."

Once it has proven itself, the new truck will be adopted. Specifications will be written and truck manufacturers asked to bid on construction of a quantity of new trucks.

This new truck, identified as Pilot Model No. 9, probably will cost in the neighborhood of \$23,000. Trucks currently in use cost less—about \$20,000 each—but inflation accounts for some of the price difference. And the new truck is slightly larger and safer. It eventually will replace Pilot Model No. 1, the truck now in use.

CONSERVATION, October 1970 Page 3

VENTURA COUNTY FIRE ENDANGERS OIL WELLS

A fire, which burned over 200 acres of brush land, came within approximately a half-mile of Getty Oil Co. wells in Ventura field before it was extinguished.

Nineteen engines from all over the county were fighting the fire; and if it were not for being able to reach the fire through Getty Oil Co.'s lease roads in Ventura field, the fire would have burned over a much larger area. The fire started near Ventura Ave., north of the field, and burned eastward.

Division of Oil and Gas officials in District 2 noted that Getty also supplied vacuum trucks for water and directed the fire engines, bulldozers and other equipment through their field roads to the fire.

No one was injured during the Aug. 23 fire, although the blaze did threaten a milling company and a microwave tower at one time.

Engineer is Chairman

The first series of technical seminars sponsored by the Northern California Section of American Petroleum Institute has been completed and a new series is now in preparation.

Engineer Dave Anderson of the Woodland office of Division of Oil and Gas, as chairman of the Educational Committee, organized and directed the program for the local API chapter.

PAUL AURIGNAC KILLED

Paul Aurignac, vice chairman of the State Board of Forestry, died last month of injuries suffered in an airplane crash in Monterey County.



ARTICLE

I've got an article for the newsletter--what shall I do?

The first step is to take an article--or an idea for one--to the employee in your division designated as "liaison" with the newsletter. The liaisons are: Dick Ernest, Forestry; Mary Hill, Mines and Geology; Ray Rothermel, Oil and Gas; and Sven Anderson, Soil Conservation.

Or, if you're part of the department staff, go directly to the editor in Room 1535-1.

It's important to realize pre-written articles are not required. Just an idea will probably result in a story. If you pass the idea along to the liaison in your division, that idea will "filter through" and will likely result in preparation of a story for a future publication.

Remember that timeliness IS important. Since the newsletter is issued monthly, it is preferable to have news that is no more than a month old. Non-timed features can, of course, come up at any time.

If you do want to write your own article, do this:

1. Type it, double spaced and on one side per sheet.
2. Be sure your name appears somewhere on the first sheet so we'll know who is submitting the item.
3. Write it in "layman's terms" as much as possible.

Make it understandable to persons outside your division; if you use technical terms or abbreviations, example them in your article.

After you've written your article, submit it through the liaison person in your division.

Please do not wait "until the last minute" to submit ideas or articles; time is important because we're working on rather rigid deadlines. And if a timed item comes in too late, it may be discarded as a matter of priority. That's why it's important to "call'em as you see'em."

Fire on 'Hazel'

Offshore Unit of the Division of Oil and Gas last month investigated a fire that occurred on Standard Oil Co.'s Platform "Hazel" in the Santa Barbara Channel.

"Hazel" is an unmanned production platform in the Summerland Offshore field.

Physical Standards Probe Set

A study of the physical and medical requirements for all Division of Forestry employees covered by the new retirement act is underway within the Department of Conservation.

Deputy Director John M. Mayfield Jr., chairman of the study committee, said the need is to develop standards in medical terms which can be applied to an individual's ability to continue in a rigorous fire control job.

The scope of the study will include the need for physical and medical standards for retention of forestry "safety members" under the following situations:

1. What happens when a mid-career disabling injury occurs, or if there is some other physical performance limitation confronting the employee.
2. Ability to continue after normal service retirement age of 55.
3. Criteria by which employees qualify for rehabilitation services.

In addition, the study's goal is to develop an on-going health evaluation program for the safety members, including:

1. Remaining physically fit throughout their career.
2. How to return an employee to

his job following a job-incurred injury.

3. Reduction of the number of early disability retirements.
4. Improvement of employees' physical conditions through early diagnosis of medical problems and formulation of treatment plans.

Although a committee and staff have been designed, representatives of employee organizations will be invited to attend meetings and offer suggestions.

In addition to Mayfield, the study group includes Ranger Jack Burke of San Bernardino Ranger Unit; Asst. Ranger Dale Wierman of Nevada-Yuba Ranger Unit; Emory Moore, chief of the Benefits Division of the Public Employees Retirement System; Dr. Gene Felton, director, Occupational Health Service for Los Angeles County; and Dr. William B. Whiting.

John L. Swanson, department personnel program development officer, is project coordinator. Other staff includes C. C. Hooper, Safety Coordinator for the Division of Forestry, Cecil Holmes, Rehabilitation Unit Supervisor; Jerry Hill, Personnel Analyst; and Melvin Pomponio, Deputy State Forester.

Committee's first meeting will be Oct. 5. The project will be completed in about six months.

OIL SURVEILLANCE

Sources of actual and potential pollution of the environment from oil operations are being monitored by field personnel in District 4, Division of Oil and Gas.

The drain responsible for a recent minor oil spill in the Kern River is being reworked to prevent additional problems.

Field operators, Western Oil and Gas Assn., Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Fish and Game are coordinating efforts with Division of Oil and Gas.

New Instructor

A Division of Forestry heavy equipment operator--McKinley Frost of Sonora--has joined Columbia College faculty as an instructor in fire science and heavy equipment.

Frost has been a forestry employee since 1963. He received his associate in arts degree from Columbia last June and he also attended several other nearby colleges.

NEWSMAN'S PRAISE

Harassed and harried fire dispatchers protest they are taken for granted when things go right, but that wasn't the case for the Visalia Headquarters crew in a recent letter to Tulare Ranger Ray Banks from Redford Dibble, associate editor of the Tulare Advance-Register.

"Dib", noted for the forceful, incisive nature of his reporting inquisitiveness, had this to say:

"Just a brief note to express appreciation for the assistance your dispatchers give us on our daily calls for fire news.

"Although they are always busy, they somehow find time to answer all our questions and dig out what additional information they may have when we ask for it.

"They are about as friendly and cooperative as a human being could be and we appreciate it."-RTF.

An accident can be as final as the firing squad, as complete as the gas chamber, as efficient as the hangman's noose.

Will They Never Learn?

CONSERVATION, October 1970
Page 5

A 17-year-old seasonal fire fighter responded to a grass fire in a California vineyard with no gloves and his sleeves were rolled up to his elbows.

As the youth headed toward the fire with a back pump on his back, the wind suddenly changed, forcing him to retreat. In doing so, he fell into a shallow drainage ditch. The fire came into the ditch, severely burning the hands, forearms and face of the young fire fighter.

Does the story sound familiar? It should; it was reported months ago in the Division of Forestry Newsletter.

Or take an even more recent example, which occurred just a few weeks ago near Hollister.

In this case, a fire fighter was caught in a backfire. He was forced to jump through a wall of fire and then fell on his back pump. As the fire fighter was struggling to regain control, his hands were badly burned in the hot embers.

The moral of the story?

Gloves.

It is important to recognize that only the exposed areas of the fire fighters were burned. His work clothes provided enough protection to give rescuers enough time to help.

In the case of the 17-year-old, his small finger on the right hand was amputated--as the accompanying photograph shows. Several other fingers were clawed and he underwent a great deal of medical attention.

Safety Coordinator Cassius Hooper says the employee involved in the Hollister incident was also hospitalized--along with co-workers who also suffered some injury in that particular fire.

"How many times have you seen people working at fires with their sleeves rolled up or not wearing other protective equipment?" inquires Hooper.

And then the safety official poses this question: What action should you as an employee or supervisor take to prevent this type of injury? Do you really care enough to take such action?

At one fire, where Hooper pointed out to a manager an employee working with his sleeves rolled up, it took the manager a day and a night to get up enough courage to tell a foreman to order this employee to roll his sleeves down.

Another moral: The best regulations in the world are to no avail if they are not enforced.

"There have been enough serious hand burns to warrant the wearing of gloves by all fire fighters," Hooper says.



Here's an example of bad burns suffered by a young fire fighter who wasn't wearing gloves on the job. (See story on gloves.)

'BLOWOUT' MANUAL IS COMPLETED BY DIVISION

The Division of Oil and Gas has completed a new manual on "Blowout Protection in California."

Engineer A. D. Stockton authored the manual after consultation with various industrial, professional and governmental organizations.

The manuscript was prepared by the staff of the division's Inglewood office and applies to both offshore and onshore drilling and producing operations.

This significant report sets forth the technical guidelines that must be considered when evaluating proposed blowout prevention equipment and procedures. It includes an up-to-date equipment classification system and outlines requirements for various environmental and predicted subsurface conditions; inspection and testing procedures; casing depth and cementing requirements for anchoring the blowout prevention equipment and for the protection of natural resources and reservoir energy; a training section and a glossary of terms.

As a result of this study, new requirement sheets for the various classifications and areas have been made and will soon be distributed to all Division of Oil and Gas Offices.

PYGMYS

State forest lands on the Mendocino County coast near the famed Pygmy Forest Reserve have been set aside as part of a cooperative program for research in the ecology of the unique trees.

Resources Secretary Norman B. Livermore Jr. said the program primarily involves approximately 60 acres located adjacent to the dwarf tree reserve in Jackson State Forest, about five miles south of Fort Bragg.

University of California is working on the project in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and Division of Forestry. Various types of forest and soil research is involved.

Lots of Morale--

Morale of at least one member of the clerical staff in District 4-T--Mrs. Juanita Perry--is at an all-time high.

While on vacation in Texas, Hurricane Celia just missed her; and in Las Vegas, she hit the nickel \$100 jackpot. Too late now to test beginner's luck on the \$1 machine!

Safety is often mere lifting of a finger, the glance of an eye, the decision to do or not to do.

Retirements

GRONINGER, OLYMPICS FIRE CHIEF, RETIRES

By Rex N. Griggs

Forestry Supt. Richard A. Groninger, fire chief for the eighth Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, has retired.

At the time of his recent retirement, Groninger was superintendent at the Puerta La Cruz Conservation Camp in District VI.

Supt. Groninger received much of his forestry and fire fighting training at an early age from his father, who was appointed as a volunteer fire warden in 1917 by the state forester. "In those days the manpower for fire fighting came from the citizenry," Supt. Groninger recalls.

The elder Groninger was secretary-treasurer of the Angeles Forest Protective Assn., a group that was very instrumental in legislation enacted to protect the watershed areas of southern California.

During the summers in high school, Groninger worked on fire suppression crews and as a lookout.

In 1930, he was appointed as a fire patrolman for the California Division of Forestry in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties at such locations as Elsinore, Etiwanda and Del Rosa.

Groninger remembers that one of his jobs during the depression era was to distribute food donated by the Red Cross, water companies, agricultural groups and the state, from Del Rosa to the itinerant camps in the area.

In 1933, Groninger was appointed as crew foreman in the Civilian Conservation Corps and worked in the program in San Diego and Riverside Counties until 1940, with brief assignments as patrolman in Madera and Orange Counties.

In 1940, he resigned to accept employment in the aircraft industry in the San Diego area but returned in 1949 as a forestry work program supervisor in the conservation camp program and was assigned to construct the Oak Glen Camp in the San Bernardino mountains. He remained at Oak Glen until 1953 when he was assigned to construct the Morena Conservation Camp in southern San Diego County. Then he returned to Oak Glen until 1957 and was promoted to Associate State Forest Ranger in San Diego County.

In November 1958, Groninger was selected as fire chief for the VIII Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, an assignment that ended in 1960.

From Squaw Valley, he returned to the newly constructed Puerta La Cruz Conservation Camp near Warner Springs in San Diego County.

Groninger and his wife, Lavina, plan to reside in El Cajon, where he can concentrate on golf.

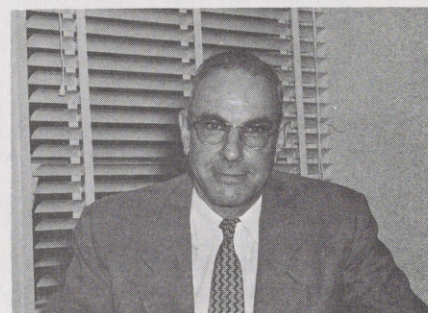


Retired Forestry Supt. Richard A. Groninger, standing right, receives a shiny chalk block from Supt. H. Rolland of Morena Conservation Camp during a retirement ceremony. Asst. Deputy State Forester Joe Springer, master of ceremonies, is seated right. To the left of the podium is a model depicting "Groninger's image," presented by Larry Sturman on behalf of the La Cima Conservation Camp.

FRED DUNOW RETIRES

Deputy State Forester Fred M. Dunow has retired after serving the California Division of Forestry for 40 years.

For 27 years, Dunow headed the Central Sierra District for CDF.



Dunow was born in Auburn, where he later attended Placer Union High School, on August 19, 1905.

At the age of 10, the future deputy forester began his career as a fire fighter and "water buck."

After graduation from high school, he was graduated from University of California at Berkeley, where he majored in forestry.

Dunow joined CDF in 1931 with an assignment at Oroville. In 1932 he went to southern California.

In 1934, Dunow was transferred to Sacramento to work on the first master fire plan. Two years later, he was placed in charge of collecting fire patrol funds under the state's Compulsory Patrol Act. Two cents per acre was collected on all private forest lands.

In 1943, Dunow assumed duties as Deputy State Forester in charge of the Central Sierra District. He headed the district, now to be merged with neighboring districts, until his retirement.

Dunow and his wife, Clara, continue to reside in Sacramento. They have two grown children.

The retired official intends to continue to take an active part in the Society of American Foresters, American Forestry Assn., California Rural Fireman's Assn., Sacramento-Yolo Fire Chief's Assn., and other organizations.

Dunow will be honored at a retirement party Oct. 10 at the Placer County Fairground in Auburn.

People who jump to conclusions spend lots of time in the air.

Notes With Newton

The "gobbledygook hunt" is on in the Department of Human Resources, led by Editor Bill Lawson of HRD News. And thus far, it has been a pretty productive search.

For example:

"Collects activity hours and matches these activity hours to the hours, by activity, to the employee's salary rate in the employee master file, and computes an hourly and total cost, by employee of each activity or activities performed by that employee."

What's with the X-rated walls in the Resources Building? I mean who is the clever author who, on one Thursday, changed the hand-lettered "Rap Session" announcements to read, "Rape Session"?

We don't know who to thank for starting the circulation of this piece, but it was handed in by Laura Patrick, secretary to the Deputy Director:

"I promise...
to be good
to be careful
not to lie
not to drink
not to smoke
not to cheat
not to date the opposite sex.
(The funeral is tomorrow!)"

You've been asked if you've heard about Madera County's two owls who tried to make love on a 12 kv power line. Shocking! Took a lineman-climber to pry 'em apart and a fire crew to put out the fire sparked by the romance.

From the "you-can't-get-away-from-it department" comes this report out of Forestry's District IV.

While enjoying an evening off, Asst. Ranger Ronald P. Gillespie, wife in hand, journeyed out to visit a local rancher friend.

After a short time, the rancher's son come running into the house to report their haystack on fire.

By the time the smoke cleared, Gillespie had managed to ruin a good pair of shoes and a set of clothes.

The crowning blow, however, came when a veterinarian who had been at the ranch ministering to a prize cow walked up to the rancher and said: "Your cow is dead, your horse is lame, your haystack is on fire and I can't help you—I think I'll just go home."

ACCIDENTS

For several years the Department of Conservation has made outstanding progress in reducing injuries and accidents among employees of the department throughout the state.

Over the last six months, however, the pattern of progress has slipped and there has been an increase in the injury rate.

"I encourage all of you to support our effort to reduce the physical suffering and economic hardship experienced by injured employees and their families," said Director James G. Stearns during a review of the situation.

"The success of our program must rely upon an all-out contribution of every employee, particularly managers and supervisors, who are managing the activities and lives of others," Stearns added.

The department's accident prevention program is a positive one—and it's designed to touch the lives of every employee.

"The enthusiastic response and support we have experienced in the past is a strong indication that we are capable of achieving, even surpassing, our goals," Stearns added. "Each of you are the ingredients of ultimate success," the director said in a special message to all employees of the department.

MILLER'S MILESTONE

Another milestone in the development of the California Water Plan was witnessed by members of the engineering staff for Division of Oil and Gas in District 4-T.

The Buena Vista Pumping Plant lifted its first water 205 feet into the section of the aqueduct leading to the Wheeler Ridge Plant.

This was an occasion of particular significance to Jack Miller, who was the geologist assigned to the plant during the construction phase.

STORIES ATTACKED

Articles appearing in three national magazines have been branded as derogatory by the State Soil Conservation Commission.

Commissioners, while admitting the articles deal with a critical view of stream channelizing projects in southern states and make no mention of California, feel there is a bad reflection on this state.

Stories in the magazines criticize watershed management projects in the southern states. The commission feels stricter controls in California make similar situations unlikely.

CONSERVATION, October 1970
Page 7

PROPER GROUNDING

By CASSIUS HOOPER
Safety Coordinator

While working on radio equipment, a forestry employee was seriously injured from contacting an electrically-energized antenna mast.

Investigation revealed that the electrical insulation on the 110 volt callbell wires was stripped during installation of the antenna cable when it was pulled through an access opening in the wall of the radio building.

Basically, this injury was caused by two unsafe practices:

1. No tapping conduit was installed on the bell wires to prevent insulation damage.
2. The wall receptacle of the building was not grounded via a three-way receptacle, so the grounded wire for the radio system was not utilized.

The importance of making proper electrical installations and grounding electrical equipment cannot be over-stressed. By this time, every forestry facility should be properly wired. Too often nongrounded equipment leaves an innocent employee with no second chance.

Have you checked your building and equipment—even your own home—for proper grounding?

25 Years

Fire Crew Foreman Willard N. Pefley has received his 25-year service award.

Pefley, who will retire this year, has resided in Hemet for eight years. He has served at Puerta La Cruz and Oak Glen Conservation Camps.

More Redwoods

A 270-acre parcel of first-growth redwoods has been purchased by the Save-the-Redwoods League and turned over to the state as an addition to Montgomery Woods State Park near Ukiah.

Mann Retires

Ranger William F. Mann of Willits has retired after many years with the Division of Forestry, including the last 13 as head of Mendocino Ranger Unit.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

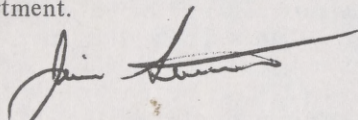
cooperation and contributions made by all employees of the Division of Forestry as these changes were planned and put into operation.

Meanwhile, I join all employees of the department in congratulating Wes Bruer on his permanent assignment as the State Geologist and Chief of the Division of Mines and Geology.

I am pleased by the attention so many employees are giving to advancing their training and education. For example, as also noted elsewhere in this issue, one-third of the employees in the Bakersfield office of the Division of Oil and Gas are taking special classes at Bakersfield College.

Employees in the Division of Soil Conservation are hard at work on a comprehensive report on the problems of the soil and vegetative mantle of the state. This report, requested by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, will be completed early next year.

My sincere thanks go to each and every one of you for the team effort you are making on behalf of the department.



STANDARD'S PLANS

A decision to terminate three of the dwindling number of secondary recovery operations in the Coalinga area was relayed to the Division of Oil and Gas in August by Standard Oil Company of California.

The largest operation, with a maximum of 11 injectors, was a project originally proposed in 1964 as a line-drive water flood of the Temblor E and G sands and was subsequently enlarged and converted to a pattern flood.

The second, also in the Coalinga field, was a one-well pilot test. This operation was proposed in 1965 as a test of the feasibility of a stream displacement or drive flood of the Temblor "Jv" sand. In 1968, the well was converted from steam injection service to a water injector, and the test was continued until the present time under these new conditions.

The third was in Jacalitos field. This small project, initiated in 1966, was programed as a line-drive water flood of the Temblor "F" and "G" sands.

WATCH THOSE TOOLS

Loose tools and equipment can be lethal in truck cabs as evidenced by a report prepared by Paul Kirlin of Orange County Ranger Unit.

Things started going bad for Kirlin when he overturned a Division of Forestry dump truck.

Kirlin was traveling up the Edison Spur near Black Star Canyon Rd.

"I came around a curve and proceeded to shift to a lower gear," Kirlin reports. "Transmission did not drop into gear immediately and I had one hand on the steering wheel and the other on the shift lever."

As this was happening, Kirlin accidentally steered into the "berm" with the front wheels of the truck. He tried to correct the situation, but the vehicle continued forward until the rear duals hit the soft shoulder and the right duals slid off of the road, taking the vehicle over the side of the mountain.

About this time, Kirlin was confronted by yet another problem: His vehicle had no provisions for storing miscellaneous equipment like chock blocks, chains, jack and other tools in an outside compartment. They were inside, on the floorboard.

"To the best of my knowledge, I remember rolling three to four times and vividly recall seeing them (the tools) being thrown around in the cab."

Inspecting the cab the day after his accident, Kirlin noticed how the tools had made dents and tears in the interior of the cab. "I strongly recommend that no matter what the inconvenience to the operator may be, all tire tools, chains, chocks, etc., be stored outside the cab—at all times," said Kirlin. He considers it "fortunate" that no single loose item hit him. "These tools become lethal weapons when a vehicle is rolling end-over-end."

RUNNING THE COURSE

Lightning-caused wildfires are allowed to "run their course" in Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park.

The reason for the new approach is explained by Park Supt. John S. McLaughlin: It's an experiment in "restoring the natural processes."

And, says the park chief, natural fires are healthy because they periodically thin the forest and reduce natural fuels, open the woodlands and allow sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor.

McLaughlin says when there is any possibility that the fires may endanger park visitors or burn into areas of adjacent national forest, state or private lands, they are extinguished.

PETERSEN NAMED

(Continued from Page 1)



Petersen and his wife, Beverly, have two children—Andrew, who attends Sacramento City college; and Diane, married and mother of two daughters.

Stearns, in announcing the appointment, said: "We are fortunate to get our program off to a running start with Pete's background and experience..."

The governor's program results from a determination by Governor Reagan to increase the employability of the disadvantaged in California.

"I have every expectation that under Pete's stimulus and with your understanding and appreciation for the need for this program, our department at this time next year will be well along in providing fulltime career opportunities to the disadvantaged citizens to serve the state," Stearns said.

BRUER STATE GEOLOGIST

(Continued from Page 1)

Bruer was one of the leaders in drafting and securing passage of the California Geologist Act and was honored by being awarded Registered Geologist Certificate No. 1 by the State Board of Registration for geologists.

Bruer is married and has a daughter, Lucia, a high school senior in Sacramento.

While a Bakersfield resident, Bruer served on the city planning commission and was active in civic organizations. He is a former president of the San Joaquin Geological Society and was the first vice president of the American Institute of Professional Geologists, California Section, which he helped organize.